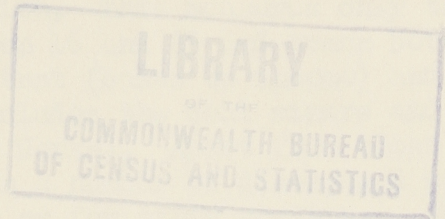


25 JUL 1949

15th July, 1949



B.S.L. 1949/5

NEW SOUTH WALES

DIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS

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# GENERAL

It is difficult to estimate the extent of unemployment caused by the coal strike. Unemployment benefits granted in this State for the weeks ended 9th July totalled 50,500 and at that day many claims for unemployment benefit had not yet been dealt with. This measures only those eligible for these benefits, viz. men between 16 and 65 and women between 16 and 60 years of age who satisfied the means test (based on income) and who did not participate in current strikes (i.e. excludes the coal miners and men involved in the dispute at the Clyde Engineering Works). Apart from those affected who were not eligible for unemployment benefits a number of disengaged persons did not apply because they were doing odd jobs or for other reasons. Besides mass unemployment the coal dispute will have far-reaching effects on production, incomes, finance and trade. Statistics shown in this issue of the Digest do not yet reflect these effects.

## EMPLOYMENT AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIES

### EMPLOYMENT - New South Wales.

Employment in New South Wales (other than rural and female domestics) rose in May by 4,300 to 991,200, making a total increase of 30,500 for the past twelve months. Employment of men in non-rural industries has risen from 530,000 in July, 1939 and 702,200 in July, 1948 to 721,300 in May, 1949, an increase of 36% for the ten years. Employment of women increased even faster, from 168,000 and 262,700 to 269,900 (61%), partly due to the transfer of private domestics to industry and the greater employment opportunities now offered to women.

### EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES (excl. employers & workers on own account) thousands

Month	WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN EMPLOYMENT					Men from N.S.W. in Armed Forces
	Rural	Domestics	All other Wage Earners.			
	Males (a)	Females (b)	Males	Females	Total	
1939 - July	41	52	530	168	698	6
1945 - July	23	19	541	247	788	224
1946 - July	27	20	625	243	868	44
1947 - July	26	n.a.	677	253	930	21
1948 - May		n.a.	700	261	961	16
July	31	n.a.	702	263	965	14
1949 - March		n.a.	717	269	986	13
April		n.a.	718	269	987	13
May		n.a.	721	270	991	13

(a) Ascertained annually in March; permanent employees only. (b) employed in private households.

Industry during May was not yet greatly affected by power blackouts. Factory employment, reduced in April through industrial disputes, returned to the March level of 363,000. Employment in communications, mainly Post Office, increased by 1,150 and smaller increases were recorded in other groups. An increase of 2,400 in Government employment over the month was due mainly to staff additions in the P.M.G., railways and education departments.

### EMPLOYEES IN MAIN INDUSTRIES - NEW SOUTH WALES (in thousands)

Month	Factor- ics	Building & Construct- ion.	Mining & Quarry- ing.	Transport & Commun- ication.	Retail Trade	Commerce and Finance	Profess'l & Person'l Services	Other	Total Wage & Salary Earners
1939-July	218.1	58.4	24.8	81.6	80.0	67.5	105.7	61.8	697.9
1945-July	302.3	34.9	24.9	100.5	67.7	56.7	115.4	85.5	787.9
1947-July	342.5	58.0	26.9	115.5	87.5	79.0	140.0	80.2	929.6
1948-May	354.2	61.2	28.0	120.6	92.3	83.8	144.5	76.1	960.7
1949-March	363.0	64.3	27.8	124.3	93.6	86.8	147.9	78.8	986.5
April	361.6	65.5	27.6	123.8	93.3	87.7	148.6	78.8	986.9
May	363.0	65.9	27.8	125.6	93.6	88.2	148.1	79.0	991.2



WAGES & SALARIES - New South Wales

Total wages and salaries paid in New South Wales averaged about £4½ mill. to £5 mill. a week from 1943 to the early part of 1946. Rising employment and later higher wage rates increased total to £6.75 mill. a week in March quarter, 1948 and £7.73 mill. in March quarter 1949. Average weekly earnings per male unit (see note below table) remained fairly steady between £6.10.0 and £7 from 1943 to 1947 and then rose to £7.11.6 in March quarter, 1948 and by a further 16/6 to £8.8.0 in March quarter 1949. Rises in average earnings of £1.14.0 between March quarter of 1947 and 1949 compare with increases of only 16/- in the basic wage during the same period, which shows that a considerable portion of the recent growth of total wage payments is due to upward revisions of award margins and higher salaries payments in excess of awards and possibly also to overtime payments. The seasonally adjusted index of average weekly wage earnings in Australia (male units) rose from an average of 1000 in 1945-46 to 1048 in March quarter, 1947, 1175 in 1948 and approx. 1300 in 1949.

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES AND EARNINGS, NEW SOUTH WALES (incl. A.C.T.)

New South Wales				Australia, Index
		Total Weekly Wages Paid	Average Weekly Earnings (a)	Av. Weekly Wage Earnings (a) (c)
		£mill	£ per male unit	1945-46 = 1000
Year	1941-42	4.20	5.15. 6	863
	1942-43	4.62	6.12. 0	988
	1944-45	4.72	6.15. 0	1013
March Qr.	1946	4.82	6.17. 0	986
	1947	5.71	6.14. 0	1048
	1948	6.75	7.11. 6	1175
	1949	7.73	8. 8. 0	1300 (prelim)
			Weekly Basic Wage (b)	
			4.10. 6 (av.)	
			4.17. 0 (av.)	
			4.19. 0 (av.)	
			4.19. 0	
			5. 8. 0	
			5.14. 0	
			6. 4. 0	

(a) Includes overtime, loadings, piecework earnings. Male units derived by adding 45% of female employment to male employment. (b) Adult males, Sydney  
(c) Seasonally adjusted.

COAL PRODUCTION - New South Wales

New South Wales coal output in 1949 up to the middle of June was the highest since 1942. It totalled 5.20 mill. tons (22 weeks ended June, 18th) compared with 5.05 mill. tons in the corresponding period of 1948 (23 weeks) and 1947 (24 weeks). Production in all mines was interrupted by a stop-work meeting on 16th June and a general strike began on 27th June.

The New South Wales mines can produce about 56,000 tons a day but because of disputes etc. they averaged only about 50,000 tons a working day (allowing for holidays) or 240,000 tons a week up to the middle of June, 1949.

PRODUCTION OF COAL - New South Wales - in thousand tons.

	Yearly Ave.	Year				Period ended (a)		
	1937-39	1942	1946	1947	1948	21-6-47	19-6-48	18-6-49
Underground	10,273	12,150	10,430	10,724	10,467	4,659	4,513	4,573
Open-cut	-	56	756	959	1,254	394	538	631
T o t a l	10,273	12,206	11,186	11,683	11,721	5,054	5,051	5,204

(a) 24 weeks, in 1947, 23 weeks in 1948, and 22 weeks in 1949.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - New South Wales

Comparatively few stoppages occurred in coal mines during May and the loss of man-working days (8,000) was the lowest for some months. The principal dispute in other industries was a wage dispute at Clyde Engineering Works which has been pending since March.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES - New South Wales

Annual Averages	Coal Mining	Other Employment	Total	Monthly Averages	Coal Mining	Other Employment	Total
Thousand Man-Days Lost				Thousand Man-Days Lost			
1937-39	768	178	644	1937-39	39	15	54
1940-44	473	338	811	1948	40	25	65
1945	633	1249	1879	1949-March Quarter	29	26	55
1946	399	617	916	April	24	50	74
1947	388	739	1127	May	8	28	36
1948	471	304	775				



# GAS & ELECTRICITY - Sydney and New South Wales.

Production of gas and electricity in New South Wales was at a very high level during the current year until the coal strike forced drastic curtailments at the end of June. Generation of electricity in May, 1949 was 336 mill. kwh and for the 11 months ended May it averaged 311 mill. kwh compared with a monthly average of 295 mill.kwh in 1947-48 and only 162 mill. kwh in 1938-39. However, electricity output was still insufficient for all winter demands and restrictions on the use of power were introduced during May. Gas production in May, 1949 was 1730 mill. cub.ft., one of the highest monthly figures ever recorded. The monthly average for the eleven months ended May, 1522 mill. cub. ft. was also above the 1947-48 level and about two thirds more than in 1938-39. Gas and electricity consumption in the Sydney area (seasonally adjusted index) in May, 1949 was 9% above 1947-48 and 90% above pre-war.

## G A S   A N D   E L E C T R I C I T Y - Year and Month

N.S.W. Production /	Year ended June			11 mths ended May, 1949.	1947	1948	1949	
	1939	1947	1948		May	May	April	May
Gas mill.cub.ft.	10,896	16,744	18,093	16,743	1,491	1,488	1,536	1,730
Electricity mill.kwh	1,948	3,229	3,546	3,423	292	321	299	336
Gas & El'y Consumption, Sydney								
Index-1937-39 =100(a)	104	161	174	183	164	168	188	190

(a) seasonally adjusted.

## NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS:

Railway traffic in May, 1949 was very heavy and gross earnings for the month reached the record figure of £3.50 mill., but working expenses also increased and the surplus on working account was only £303,000 for the month. Higher fares and freight rates and heavier traffic raised gross earnings in the eleven months ended May 1946-47 from £27.97 mill. to £33.60 mill. in 1948 and £36.46 mill. in 1948-49, but because of the rapid growth of working expenses the surplus on working account for the eleven months fell from £6.14 mill. in 1947-48 to £4.54 mill. in 1948-49. Debt charges which are to be met from this surplus and from the Government contribution of £800,000 are budgeted at £7 mill. for the full year 1948-49.

Comparing the eleven months ended May, 1949 with 1939: passenger traffic increased by 41% and goods traffic by 18%; gross earnings rose by £108% and working expenses by £151%, making a decrease of £290,000 in the surplus on working account.

## NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

Y e a r	Eleven months ended May					Month of May	
	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock)	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Net (a) Earnings	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock)
	Millions	mill.tons.	£.mill.	£.mill.	£ mill.	Millions	Million Tons
1939	171.9	13.40	17.56	12.73	4.83	15.6	1.42
1947	238.3	15.15	27.97	22.95	5.02	22.0	1.37
1948	242.5	16.01	33.60	27.46	6.14	22.9	1.46
1949	242.7	15.83	36.46	31.92	4.54	23.8	1.51

(a) Excess of gross earnings over working expenses; excluding Government contribution of £800,000 for developmental lines.



## PART 11: FINANCE AND TRADE

TRADING BANKS - Australia

The continuous upward trend in trading bank deposits from £668 mill. in August, 1948 to £831 mill. in April, 1949 was checked in May by a fall of £5 mill. This together with a rise of £2 mill. in advances was a seasonal movement due to tax payments, withdrawals of primary producers etc., and as such was less pronounced than in earlier years. Exceptionally high returns have probably reduced the seasonal credit requirements of primary producers. Export returns and capital inflow have been the chief factors in the rise in deposits which was paralleled by a rise in the Commonwealth Bank's holdings of gold and balances abroad from £267 mill. in August, 1948 to £387 mill. in April and £396 mill. in May, 1949. A decrease in the trading bank's excess of liabilities over assets in Australia of £14 mill. during the nine months suggests that they too increased their overseas funds (assuming that there was no substantial change in shareholder's funds during the period).

Special accounts with the Commonwealth Bank reached the record figure of £389 mill. in May; (movements in this item lag some weeks behind changes in customer's deposits, and the seasonal drop of the latter was not followed by a fall in Special Accounts until June). These demands on trading bank funds from current business and the Commonwealth Bank were met partly by a reduction in Treasury bill holdings from £32 mill. in January, 1949 and £19 mill. in April to £13 mill. in May; and also in the case of some banks by loans from the Commonwealth Bank, as shown in the rise in "balances due to other banks" from £34 mill. in April to £45 mill. in May. This item until the middle of 1947 comprised small inter-bank balances and rarely exceeded £2 mill. Since then it has become significant as showing a new departure in finance, affecting four of the trading banks to which the Commonwealth Bank extends loans for their own expanding advance business at a rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}\%$  p.a. while these banks like all others are required to maintain Special Accounts, calculated on the basis of their total assets in Australia, for which the Commonwealth Bank pays  $\frac{1}{2}\%$ , and which in each case are well in excess of their borrowing from the Central Bank.

## NINE TRADING BANKS - Business within Australia

Month (Weekly Averages)	Deposits at credit of customers	Balances due to Other Banks	Advances to customers	Public Secur- ities	Special A/c with C'wth Bank	Treas -ury Bills	Cash Items	Ratios to Deposits	
								Advan- ces	Spec- ial A/c
								%	%
1939- May	323	1	291	22	-	25	31	90	-
1946- May	631	2	220	123	259	48	35	34	41
1947- May	654	2	236	281	280	19	36	44	43
1948-April	709	17	338	59	280	31	50	48	40
May	708	19	344	59	287	26	44	49	41
August	668	36	362	60	272	12	46	53	40
1949-January	791(a)	28	373(a)	61	321	32	54	46	41
March	826(a)	31	360(a)	65	365	28	48	43	44
April	831(a)	34	373(a)	63	379	19	44	45	46
May	826(a)	45	375(a)	63	389	13	47	45	47

(a) Following a technical adjustment in bank returns, deposits and advances were reduced by £9 million as from January, 1949.

COMMONWEALTH BANK - CENTRAL BANKING BUSINESS - Australia.

Inflow of capital and the excess of export returns over imports and other overseas commitments raised the Central Bank's holdings of gold and foreign balances by £69 mill. between June 1947 and 1948, and by a further £137 mill. to a total of £392 mill. between June 1948 and 1949. In June 1939 Australia's international currency reserves (all banks) were only £56 mill. The inflationary effect of the increase in Australian deposits following the rise in overseas assets during 1948-49 was partly countered by an increase of £76 million in the amounts required to be redeposited in Special Accounts and by Government debt redemptions as indicated by a reduction of £57 mill. in the Central Bank's holding of Government securities. "Other assets" which include the advances to trading banks mentioned in the previous paragraph, rose by £17 mill. over the year.

In spite of rising prices and wages the volume of currency has not increased appreciably since the war. The note issue rose from £47 mill. in June, 1939, to £185 mill. in 1945, but between 1945 and 1949 it increased only by £28 mill. to £213 mill., and only two-thirds of that increase went into public circulation, the balance being added to the banks' note holdings. As in the two previous years the



note issue was increased by £2 mill. early in June, 1949, to meet the usual seasonal demand. A further increase of £1.25 mill. to £212.85 mill in the last week of the month may have been due to extra demand caused by the industrial dislocation following the floods and coal stoppage.

COMMONWEALTH BANK-CENTRAL BANKING BUSINESS, including Note Issue  
(£millions)

Last Week of Month	Notes on Issue held by			Trading Banks		Other liabilities (a)	Gold & Bal'cs abroad	Gov't & other securities.	Other Assets (b)
	Public	Banks	Total	Special A/c	Other Dep's				
1946-June	182	17	199	260	22	143	204	411	11
-December	185	23	208	268	29	109	224	386	6
1947-June	184	19	203	271	21	126	186	429	8
December	180	25	205	263	30	159	178	466	15
1948-June	174	23	197	294	28	178	255	397	39
December	188	29	217	319	22	183	351	358	36
1949-June	n.a.	n.a.	213	370	24	183	392	340	56

(a) Excluding capital and reserve funds. (b) Excluding coins and bills held.

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS:

New deposits and withdrawals on New South Wales savings accounts during May 1949 were about equal (£14.5 mill.) and the total balance of £240.5 mill. remained practically unchanged. Deposits and withdrawals during the current year have been running at a higher rate than in 1948, and the increase in balances for the five months ended May was £2.6 mill. in 1949 as against £1.8 mill. in 1948. Results of the present savings campaign will not be shown until June when the group collections for the first quarter will be deposited by employers.

Deposits with all savings banks in Australia in January-May, 1949 increased by £13.10 million to £701.5 million.

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (£million)

Period	New South Wales				Total Deposits at end of Period	
	Deposits Lodged	Withdrawals made	Net Increase (+) or decrease (-)	Interest added	N.S.W.	Australia
1938/39 July-June	66.6	67.2	- 0.6	1.6	87.5	245.6
1945-46 July-June	191.3	156.8	+34.5	3.6	236.3	663.6
1946/47 July-June	159.2	167.9	- 8.7	3.8	231.4	660.0
1947-48 July-June	161.0	159.2	+ 1.8	3.8	237.0	681.3
1948-49 July-May	153.5	144.0	+ 3.5	-	240.5	701.5
1948-January-May	65.2	63.4	+ 1.8	-	233.0	669.1
1949-January-May	72.2	69.6	+ 2.6	-	240.5	701.5

LIFE ASSURANCE - New South Wales.

Life assurance business is growing less rapidly than in the early post-war period. The number of new policies issued in New South Wales in 1948 was less than in 1947, and for March quarter, 1949 the number was below that of March quarter, 1948 though the sum assured on new policies was slightly greater. However, value of new insurance business remains about double the value of the immediate pre-war years. The smaller proportion of industrial in total business is apparently due to growing preference for group schemes which are administered by the ordinary branch. The average value of new policies in both sections has greatly increased; in the ordinary branch from £360 in 1939 and £451 in 1947 to £492 in 1948, and the industrial branch from £48 and £90 to £97.

LIFE ASSURANCE - NEW POLICIES ISSUED IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Period	Ordinary Department		Industrial Department		Total Sum Assured New Policies
	No. of Policies thousands	Sum Assured £ millions	No. of Policies thousands	Sum Assured £ millions	
Year 1939	50.5	18.18	156.8	7.54	25.72
1946	81.7	38.08	128.3	9.80	47.88
1947	96.7	43.59	115.9	10.48	54.07
1948	96.5	47.45	114.5	11.07	58.52
March Quarter 1948	16.7	7.82	27.3	2.60	10.42
-1949	16.3	8.73	24.7	2.45	11.18

The total sum assured on all policies, new and old, in New South Wales rose from £197 million in 1939 to £279 million in 1945 and £345 million in 1947. At the same time the number of policies in force rose from 1.38 million to 1.84 million and 2.04 million. The total sum assured in Australia in 1947 was £934 million on 5.44 million policies.



# NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS:

Receipts of tax reimbursements turned the deficiency on the State accounts of £1.77 mill. at the end of March and £500,000 in April to a surplus of £120,000 in May, 1949, as against a surplus of £230,000 at the end of May, 1948. Tax reimbursements in June, 1948 amounted to £2.47 mill. and are budgeted at £2.91 mill. for June, 1949. Comparing the eleven months ended May 1949 and 1948 railway revenue increased by £3.10 mill. and railway expenditure by £4.33 mill. Higher fares increased revenue from tram and bus services from £7.32 mill. to £8.00 mill., and expenditure on that account rose by £200,000. Governmental votes required £27.9 mill. in the 1947-48 period and £31.7 mill. in 1948-49.

## NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS (£ millions)

Revenue Item	Actual 11 mths ended May		Estimate Year	Expenditure Item	Actual 11 mths ended May		Estimate Year
	1948	1949	1948-49		1948	1949	1948-49
From Commonwealth(1)	19.8	22.9	26.9	Net Debt Charges	13.8	14.2	15.6
State Taxation	7.9	8.3	9.6	Other ex " "			
Other Governmental	8.1	8.8	9.7	Governmental	27.9	31.7	36.8
Railways	33.4	36.5	38.6	Railways	27.7	32.0	33.0
Tram & Bus Services	7.3	8.0	9.0	Tram & Bus Serv.	7.5	7.7	8.8
Sydney Harbour	1.3	1.5	1.4	Sydney Harbour	0.7	0.8	0.9
TOTAL REVENUE	77.8	86.5	95.2	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	77.6	86.4	95.1

- (1) Reimbursement of taxes, payments towards interest, hospital benefits and controls administration.

Loan fund expenditure on works totalled £18.63 million for the eleven months of 1948-49 compared with £13.44 million in the same period of 1947-48.

## SYDNEY STOCK EXCHANGE:

In June the seasonal easing in the demand for shares, and weaknesses shown on overseas stock and commodity markets, accentuated the downward trend in share prices of recent months, and the coal crisis at the end of June further depressed the market. However, turnovers remained generally small and not many sellers came forward at the new low prices. The index for 34 active shares rose from 247.2 in December, 1946 to 283.7 in January, 1948 and was back at 246.4 in June, 1949, but with the decline of about 22½ per cent for public utility shares offset by higher indexes for other major groups, the index for 75 shares remained about 5½ per cent above the level ruling when war-time restrictions on share-trading were lifted in January, 1947. The indexes for manufacturing and retail shares declined about 10% and the total index of 75 shares by 11% during the past eighteen months.

## INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY.

Prices of Ordinary Shares (excl. banks). Par value= 100

(Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician)

Month	Manufact'g & Distributing	Retail	Public Utilities	Pastoral Finance	Insurance	Total 75 Companies	34 Active Shares
1939-August	212.6	168.2	156.0	118.2	263.9	174.4	181.9
1942-March	173.0	138.3	120.8	110.3	213.7	140.6	147.0
1946-December	292.4	251.6	197.3	160.7	322.5	229.7	247.2
1947-June	330.4	318.1	194.9	171.0	401.0	258.1	272.2
1948-January	361.4	315.5	184.7	191.7	407.8	271.5	283.7
June	362.7	319.6	177.2	187.6	407.0	267.7	279.4
1949-March	345.1	288.3	165.2	180.6	464.1	254.6	262.2
April	338.8	286.9	160.7	171.0	466.5	250.7	255.8
May	340.8	283.2	158.8	177.1	469.5	451.4	256.5
June	326.9	274.4	153.1	171.7	462.3	424.4	246.4

NOTE: Regulations restricting trading and price movements in company shares imposed in February, 1942, with subsequent amendments, were rescinded in January, 1947.



COMMONWEALTH ACCOUNTS:

Preliminary figures of Commonwealth Government accounts for 1948-49 show a surplus of £29.3 mill., represented by a corresponding increment to the National Welfare Fund plus part of a substantial transfer to a War Gratuity Reserve (see below) which also is akin to a revenue surplus.

Revenue from taxation was £471 mill., - £57 mill. more than in 1947-48 and £40 mill. above estimate. The high yield of income tax & social services contribution (£26 mill. above estimate), customs and excise (£11 mill. above estimates), sales and pay-roll taxes reflect the high level of incomes, employment and trade prevailing during the year. Payments for social services (£80.8 mill.) were kept below estimates (£92 mill.) and an excess of £29.3 mill. from income from pay-roll tax and Soc. serv. contributions was added to the National Welfare Fund which amounted to about £100 mill. at the end of June, 1949. Main social services expenditure items in 1948-49 were (1947-48 figures shown in brackets): Age and Invalid Pensions £41.7 mill. (£36.5 mill.), Child Endowment £24.3 mill. (£19.4 mill.), Hospital Benefits £6 mill. (£4.4 mill.) and Widows Pensions £4.4 mill. (£3.9 mill.).

Defence and Post-war expenditure in 1948-49 totalled £190.5 mill., (£204.6 mill. less credits of £14.1 mill.) compared with £180 mill. in 1947-48 and £232.6 mill. in 1946-47. All expenditure on that account in 1948-49 (and 1947-48) was met from consolidated revenue. It included £55.8 mill. (£71.6 mill.) for defence, supply and development, £31.3 mill. (£33.8 mill.) for repatriation and re-establishment, £48.7 mill. (£48.2 mill.) for public debt charges, £22.8 mill. (£45.8 mill.) for subsidies and £10 mill. for United Kingdom grant. An amount of £31.6 mill. was transferred to war gratuity reserve, made up as follows: -£17 mill. from trust funds (included in "other" on the revenue side) and £14.6 mill. from current revenue; the estimates provided for £5 mill. for the last portion.

Tax reimbursements to the States which amounted to £44.6 mill. in 1947-48 were raised to £53.5 mill. in 1948-49; this is based on a basic grant of £45 mill. with variations according to population and increase in average wages. New South Wales received about £22 million of the total.

Post Office revenue was £33.3 mill. and current expenditure including debt days, £44 mill., in addition £12.5 mill. was spent for capital works and services. An increase in Self-balancing Items from £8.9 mill. in 1947-48 to £19.3 mill. in 1948-49 was due mainly to greater wheat tax receipts. (a total of £18.1 mill.) earmarked for the Wheat Prices Stabilization Fund.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS FOR YEARS ENDED JUNE  
(£ millions)

R e v e n u e				E x p e n d i t u r e			
I t e m	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	I t e m	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
			(prelim)				(prelim)
Customs & Excise	102.2	115.6	126.2	Social Services (a)	62.0	68.6	80.8
Sales Tax	36.3	34.7	39.0	Tax Reimbursed to States	39.5	44.6	53.5
Income Tax	156.8	161.5	182.1	Other Payments to States	20.9	22.1	25.1
Social Service Contrib.	51.0	71.4	90.3	Post Office	33.9	40.4	53.5
Pay-roll Tax	13.6	16.6	19.8	Self-balancing (b)	18.8	8.9	19.3
Other taxes	13.9	14.2	13.6	Other	58.8	30.5	102.2
Total Taxation	373.8	414.0	471.0	Total of above	233.9	265.1	334.4
Post Office	29.8	31.4	33.3	Defence & Post-War (c)	232.6	180.0	190.5
Self-balancing (b)	18.8	8.9	19.3	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	466.5	445.1	524.9
Other	8.8	11.6	30.6				
TOTAL REVENUE	431.2	465.9	554.2				

(a) Excluding balance for year remaining in National Welfare Fund-£2.6 million in 1946-47, £19.4 million in 1947-48 and £29.3 in 1948-49.

(b) Primary production charges for purposes of these industries.

(c) Includes £38 million from loans in 1946-47, but omits special credits from Trust A/c of £18.7 mill. in 1948-49 for reduction of war debt.

Loans for housing advances to the States, not included above, amounted to £11 million in 1946-47, £13.3 million in 1947-48 and £14.5 mill. in 1948-49.

RETAIL SALES (Large Sydney Stores).

The value of retail sales in large Sydney Stores for the first four months of 1949 was 12% above the same period of 1948, compared with an increase in 1948 over 1947 of 24% for the four months and 16% for the whole year. The 1949 increase corresponds approximately to the rise in retail price indexes for food and clothing which suggests that the volume of retail sales, though no longer increasing at the rapid post-war rate, is being maintained at a high level. After the heavy restocking of 1947 and 1948, when stock values rose by 33% and 21% respectively, the rate of increase in stock values slowed down to 8% for the first four months of 1949 (compared with 1948). It should be noted that the overall percentage changes in stock values are affected by movements in prices; moreover they refer to items which are turned over at different rates, i.e. slow-moving luxury lines as well as fast-selling household goods etc. in which only comparatively low stocks might be kept, and thus do not reveal the character of the changes.



**RETAIL TRADE -- LARGE SYDNEY STORES**  
**Percentage Increase on same period of previous year**

Three months moving Average ended month shown	VALUE OF SALES			Month	VALUE OF STOCKS		
	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49		1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	%	%	%		%	%	%
January	22	17	16	January	39	24	11
February	22	19	15	February	39	24	8
March	15	20	17	March	38	30	7
April	14	24	12	April	39	29	6
Increase four months ended April	14	24	12		39	27	8

**REAL ESTATE AND MORTGAGES - New South Wales**

Real estate transactions remained at a high level in 1948-49. Transfers registered numbered 86,201, exceeding the 1947-48 figure but not quite equal to the 1946-47 record of 87,532. Since restrictions on the sale of urban vacant land were lifted in September, 1948 the number of transactions has increased and as the average value per transaction has fallen it appears that the increase was in the sale of vacant land rather than of dwellings. The total value of sales (as shown on transfer documents) reached the record figure of £62.23 mill. in 1948-49. The registered value of sales in 1948-49 was 92% above the pre-war average and the number of transactions was 88% higher. The value of new mortgages registered also reached a record with £32.52 mill. in 1948-49 but in proportion to the value of transfers it was considerably lower than before the war.

**REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS, NEW SOUTH WALES**

Yearly Average	Sales		Mortgages.		Period	Sales		Mortgages.	
	Transact-ions	Consid-eration	Consider-ation			Transact-ions	Consid-eration	Consider-ation	
	No.	£mill.	£mill.			No.	£mill.	£mill.	
1936-39	45,888	32.26	24.26	1937 Sept. Qr.		21,847	15.67	6.95	
1940-44	39,532	25.47	10.00	Dec. Qr.		20,363	14.88	7.10	
1944-45	43,521	23.35	7.61	1948 Mar. Qr.		18,068	14.36	8.51	
1945-46	60,734	35.66	14.15	June Qr.		19,416	15.29	8.36	
1946-47	87,532	57.90	25.05	Sept. Qr.		20,911	14.59	6.89	
1947-48	79,694	60.20	30.92	Dec. Qr.		22,562	15.21	7.70	
1948-49	86,201	62.23	32.52	1949 Mar. Qr.		20,880	15.47	8.51	
				June Qr.		21,848	16.95	9.42	

The value of new first mortgages registered in New South Wales rose from a pre-war average of £23.77 mill. to £32.52 mill. in 1948-49 solely due to increased loans on urban property, good seasons and high export prices having reduced the credit requirements of primary producers. Mortgages on rural securities in 1948-49 (£5.14 mill) were below the pre-war figure. The value of mortgages on livestock rose from £1.80 mill. pre-war and £2.01 in 1947-48 to £2.77 mill. in 1948-49 because of higher prices; although fewer sheep, cattle and horses were mortgaged. The quantity and value of wool and crops given as security for liens in 1948-49 was also well below pre-war level.

**MORTGAGE REGISTRATIONS-New South Wales**

Year	Mortgages				Liens			
	ON REAL ESTATE (a)		ON LIVESTOCK		ON WOOL		ON CROPS	
	Total	Rural Prop.	Sheep	Value (b)	Sheep	Value	No.	Value
	£mill.	£mill.	mill.	£mill.	mill.	£mill.		£mill.
1936-38 (Av.)	23.77	5.26	5.18	1.80	7.36	2.98	4188	1.74
1946-47	25.05	4.40	2.40	1.48	1.49	1.56	1582	0.76
1947-48	30.92	4.38	2.39	2.01	2.54	2.10	1709	0.46
1948-49	32.52	5.14	2.66	2.77	2.22	2.39	848	0.33

(a) First mortgages. (b) Mortgages in sheep, cattle & horses.

**INTER-BANK CLEARINGS-Sydney.**

The value of inter-bank clearings (excluding Government transactions) rose from £2.313 million in 1947-48 to £2.774 mill. in 1948-49, an increase of 20%; however the rate of increase in March and June quarters 1949 (16%) was below that of previous periods. The value of cheque turnovers rose by about 50% during the war years and doubled between 1944-45 and 1948-49. Business expansion, high property and stock exchange turnovers and buoyant export incomes, and, more recently, rising prices were the chief factors in the post-war growth of bank clearings. The slower rate of growth during the first six months of 1949, when export incomes and prices were still rising rapidly, suggests that increased turnover of local industry and trade may have been due mainly to higher prices.

**INTER-BANK CLEARINGS - Sydney (a)**

Period						% Increase on Previous Year		
	1938-39	1945-46	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
				£ millions				
Sept. Qr.	221	370	486	518	655	31%	7%	26%
Dec. Qr.	250	383	503	587	716	31%	17%	22%
Mar. Qr.	222	389	459	545	633	18%	19%	16%
June Qr.	233	448	540	663	770	21%	23%	16%
Year	926	1,590	1,988	2,313	2,774	25%	16%	20%

(a) Excluding Government Transactions.



PART III: RURAL INDUSTRIES

THE SEASON:

Good winter rains fell over all parts of the State, excepting northern districts, in May and early June. Towards the end of the month very heavy rains in Central coastal areas caused serious floods in the Hunter, Nepean and Warragamba valleys with widespread damage to crops orchards and pastures, and stock losses in the Central and Southern dairy districts, Central Tablelands wheat districts also suffered. June temperatures were generally below average.

RAINFALL INDEX - NEW SOUTH WALES  
NORMAL RAINFALL - 100 for each month & Year

	Sheep Districts					Wheat District				Coastal Dairying Districts			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	Total	N.	C.	S.	Total	N.	C.	S.	Total
1946-Year	77	68	101	87	83	62	69	102	88	84	89	80	85
1947-Year	126	131	119	145	127	118	130	124	125	118	109	96	113
1948-Year	102	103	99	92	101	98	100	96	97	106	95	96	102
1949-March	99	147	227	388	186	64	152	243	200	161	165	145	160
April	91	82	51	85	75	118	72	56	68	79	79	37	74
May	45	98	129	165	101	41	91	120	103	82	68	138	85
June	111	105	56	46	84	110	112	37	65	99	282	317	174

N.Northern; C.Central; S.Southern; W.Western.

DAIRYING:

Seasonal conditions in dairying districts in May were generally satisfactory but great damage was done by the June floods in the Hunter-Manning and Southern milk producing areas. Whole-milk production for the ten months ended April, 1949 (252.3 mill.gall.) was slightly below last year (254.4 mill.gall.). Butter output for the eleven months ended May was 71.1 mill.lbs, compared with 73 mill.lbs. in the 1947-48 period and cheese output was also slightly below that of last season. However, production of condensory products, in particular of full cream milk powder, was higher in the current period.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES, New South Wales.  
(in million lbs.)

Period	Average 3 years		1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
	1937-38 to 1939-40	1943-44 to 1945-46			
July to May	107.91	75.12	56.56	72.98	71.10
June	6.02	2.84	3.88	3.09	...
Year	113.93	77.96	60.38	76.07	...

W O O L:

The 1948-49 wool-selling season ended on 30th June when sales at Sydney, and other centres terminated. The final series was marked by strong bidding from British, continental and Australian buyers who have been the market's chief support during the current season. Practically all the wool offered was cleared right through the season and prices remained firm except for two short minor breaks in October, 1948 and April, 1949. The average price at New South Wales sales (full clip basis) rose from 47d per lb. greasy in September and 43½d in October to a peak of 54½d in February and was about 44d during the last three months of sales. The average for the whole season was 46.8d against 37.9d in 1947-48 and 23.6d in 1946-47. This compares with an appraisal average of 15.1d for the four preceding seasons (to which is to be added the as yet undistributed profits from J.O. stock sales); during the 1930's the annual average price fluctuated between 8.3d and 16.4d.

AVERAGE PRICE OF GREASY WOOL -New South Wales - Pence per lb.

Year ended	1928	1931	1939	1941 & 1942	1943 to 1946	1947	1948	1949	
June	19.5	8.7	10.3	13.1(a)	15.1 (a)	23.6	37.9	46.8	
Year 1948-49	June	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. & Jan.	Feb. & Mar.	April	May	June
(b)	47.5	47.0	43.5	48.5	52.0	54.5	44.0	44.5	45.0

- (a) On basis of British Government contract, exclusive of profits from sale of J.O. stocks, as yet undistributed. (b) Average that would be realised if whole clip were sold at price level of that month.



Wartime stocks taken over by Joint Organization have been reduced from 10.4 mill.bales (incl. 6.8 mill. bales from Australia) in July,1945 to approx. 1.7 mill.bales (1.3 mill. bales from Australia) in June, 1949. American wartime stocks held by the Commercial Credit Corporation were reduced from 523 mill.lbs. in September,1946 to 77½ mill.lbs. (approx. 240,000 bales in March, 1949. Because of the sustained world demand accumulated stocks have been disposed of in recent years much more rapidly than was originally planned, and without causing any significant disturbance in the price levels for current clips. J.O.'s function is mainly the orderly disposal of wartime stocks and current clips in a way that corresponds to normal trade requirements at prices coming within reserve limits as fixed from time to time. The stock disposals probably tended to check the extent of wool price rises in 1947 and 1948. The rapid and successful liquidation of large stocks contracts with the position after 1918 when disposal of a surplus of 2.8 mill. bales took almost six years and prices were very low. J.O.stocks remaining unsold in June, 1949 are made up mainly of inferior wool. The Australian portion includes 645,000 bales of carbonizing types and 288,000 bales of scoured wools and scoured skin wools, mostly burry seconds. The demand for these types is limited and their disposal will have to be spread out. J.O. estimates that world supplies of wool in 1949-40 will approximate 3,255 mill. lbs, - - 2,900 mill.lbs. from the new clip and 355 mill.lbs from J.O. and C.C.C.stocks. World wool consumption for 1948-49 is estimated at 3,635 mill. lbs and at that rate demand would outstrip supplies in the coming season.

Country of Origin	Joint Organization Stocks as at - 000 Bales -				
	31.7.1945	30.6.1946	30.6.1947	30.6.1948	30.6.1949 (prelin).
Australia	6,796	3,789	3,076	2,271	1,267
New Zealand	1,777	1,425	1,092	801	413
South Africa	1,834	572	347	146	38
T o t a l	10,407	5,786	4,515	3,218	1,718

Wool exports (including scoured,tops etc.) from Australia for the nine months ended May,1949 (nine months of 1948-49 sales) were equivalent to 1025 mill.lbs. greasy, valued at \$183 mill., compared with 901 mill.lbs. (\$123 mill.) and 723 mill.lbs. (\$40 mill.) in the same periods of 1947-48 and 1937-38. Comparing 1948-49 with 1947-48 shipments to the major destinations, excepting Belgium and the United States, were considerably increased. The United Kingdom took about 36% of the total value (45% in 1937-38), Belgium and France together 24%, Italy 11%, the United States 9% (18% in 1947-48) and Russia 5%. Shipments to Germany and Japan were only a fraction of pre-war.

WOOL EXPORTS - AUSTRALIA - Nine Months ended May.

Destination	Million lbs (as in Grease)			V a l u e \$ million		
	1938	1948	1949	1938	1948	1949
United Kingdom	314	347	382	17.71	43.76	65.63
France	122	166	191	6.16	18.62	32.23
Belgium	79	107	84	3.86	12.64	11.72
Italy	31	44	107	1.49	6.08	20.25
United States	2	122	76	0.16	22.17	16.16
Soviet Russia	-	8	33	-	2.01	9.25
Other Countries	175	107	152	10.30	17.78	27.55
T o t a l	723	901	1025	39.68	123.06	182.79